Death Sentence to an Indian in Jakarta for Smuggling

7108. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian and two Thai nationals have been sentenced to death in Jakarta on charges of smuggling heroin, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the charge against the Indian involved in smuggling; and

(c) whether this case reveals the operations of any well knit gang of smugglers of narcotics operating in or through India; If so, the efforts since made to nab and bring to book the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) as per the reports available an Indian and two Thai nationals were sentenced to death by Medan District Court, Indonesia on September 8, 1994 on charges of smuggling of Heroin. The accused were charged with smuggling of 12.19 Kg. of heroin into Indonesia in February, 1994.

(c) Details of the international linkages of the accused are not available.

Misgivings by Remarks of US Secretary of State about India

7109. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a seminar in New York on the 30th September, 1994 on South Asia and the US after Cold War, the US Assistant Secretary of State. Ms. Robin Raphel, clubbed together the democratic secular India with Pakistan and other fundamentalist and non-secular states; and

(b) if so, what was the Indian representative's response and reaction to the said remarks of Ms. Raphel and in what terms he set the matters straight, to dispel the misgivings caused by these remarks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Ms. Robin Raphel did not attend the Asia Society function at New York on September 30, 1994. However, in her keynot address at the Asia Society Symposium on 'Sourth Asia and the United States after the Cold War' at Washington on September 23, 1994 in the section on 'Democracy and Continuity' she stated that "All the nations in Sourth Asia can be vulnerable to extremism," without naming any particular country. She stated further that "Extremists in South Asia, as elsewhere, seek to play on the emotional and volatile issues of religion, nationalism and ethnic or caste differences..... The US must be prepared to join hands with willing nations to counter extremism, to create a community of like-minded, progressive states, a community that would draw together progresssive Islamic states and secular nations of the region in the common cause of democracy and tolerance...."

(b) The Indian representative was invited to speak at the Asia Society Symposium the next day (September 24, 1994). His speech dealt with various issues raised by the Asia Society Report, the Pakistani Foreign Minister's speech as the Lunch Speaker the previous day and other general questions.

Visas sought by Indians to visit Shrines in Pakistan

7110. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons who applied for visa to visit religious Shrines in Pakistan during the last three years till date and the number of persons issued with visa, with year-wise break-up;

(b) the total number of Pakistanis who visited India for the same purpose during the aforesaid period;

(c) whether Government are aware of the policy of that country regarding grant of visas to the Indians to visit Shrines in that country as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 13th April, 1995; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government; thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) We had recommended to the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi, the visa applications of 7798, 7405, 6975 and 2567 pilgrims during the years 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995. According to available information approximately 7190, 5760, 5370 and 1970 Indian pilgrims visited Pakistan in the years 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 respectively.

The exact number of visa requests which were rejected by the Pakistan High Commissionis not available.

During the years 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 aproximate number of Pakistani pilgrims who visited India has been 380, 80, 420, and 580 respectively.

(c) and (d) Pakistan, regrettably, has adopted a restrictive visa regime even for those religious jathas that visit Pakistan as part of the Indo-pak Protocol on Religious Shrines, 1974.

Government have urged Pakistan to fulfill its commitments under the Indo-Pak Protocol on Religious Shrines, 1974 and have also specifically proposed that the sub-commission IV of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission, which deals with visa-related matters be re-convened.

Indo-Thailand joint Business Council Meeting

7111. SMT. BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERMANL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the indo-Thailand Joint Business Council was held recently;

(b) if so, what are the deliberations which took place in this meeting;

(c) what has been the outcome of this meeting; and

(d) what steps have been taken to follow up the points agreed to in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The India-Thailand Joint Business Council Meeting was held on July 14, 1984 in Bangkok.

(b) During the meeting, the two sides discussed the need for and prospects of expanding trade and economic relations between the two countries. The state of the economy, including the investment environment in both countries was also discussed.

(c) As a result of the meeting, there has been a better understanding of the potential for trade expansion and the concrete steps to be taken in this regard.

(d) As part of follow-up action, the JBC organised a meeting between the visiting Thai Deputy Foreign Minister and Indian industry, in November, 1994.

Anomalies in the Pay-scales of employees of Sapru House Library

7112. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sapru House Library, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi, is an autonomous body and is running under the Ministry of Exptrnal Affairs;

(b) if so, the number of employees working in the library for the last five years and how many employees have been recruited during 1994-95, and 1995-96, category-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees of the said library have submitted representations to Government regarding anomalies in their pay-scales and for implementing the Fourth Pay Commission's report, payment of D.A., A.D.A. due from 1st October, 1983, till date, and payment of Interim Relief due from 1st June, 1983 and 1st March, 1985; and

(d) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of Pay Commission's report and non-payment of D.A., A.D.A. to the employees and by when appropriate action would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The Sapru House Library